

by Bill Wallace

Recent reports on the congressional probe of research West's allegedly shadowy right-wing detective agency, have once more focused public attention on the growth of a national network of anti-left intelligence organizations servicing the rise of what is sometimes called the "New Right."

In recent months the Barb has looked into the growth of several of these networks. The fruits of that investigation follow:

Research West — the "encyclopedia" of right-wing detective agencies, allegedly financed "black bag" money against the leftists, has been exposed as a front for the Bay Area workers Union, splintered on by a San Francisco Examiner reporter and an anti-nuclear activist for Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) — it is a collusion course with Congress may soon be cited for contempt.

Another possible citation stems from legislation launched last year by U.S. Representative John Moss (Dem., Sacramento). Moss' House investigation subcommittee is probing private spy-forging groups which PG&E and other power companies have been using to collect information on leftists and nuclear power plants, and has subpoenaed the records which Research West reportedly collected on the backers of California's 1976 Nuclear Safeguards Initiative.

Solar Patricia Altow, Research West's President, has balked at turning over her files, and Moss has given her for anti-March 17 to return or risk facing a contempt action.

Research West's current congressional woes are only the most recent events in its long history of controversial activities. The company first came to light as the result of a libel suit filed against the San Francisco Examiner by Sunbeam, the well-known self help program for former adult film stars and drug-addicted actresses. Private eyes investigated Research West and found that some of the derogatory information printed in it was based on "exposés" about Sunbeam had been turned

## Spies On A Collision Course With Congress

over to Examiner reporter Ed Montgomery by Robert Lamborn, an operative for Research West and sometime trigger for the Berkeley Gazette.

Although the Sunbeam case was the catalyst for the investigation, Research West's name in the media, it was the "first time

the company had conducted "research" on a controversial subject. Synanon's investigators learned that the company was using the late Porties chiefly to spy on radical leftists trying to organize California's labor unions. Under its original name, Western Research Foundation, Research West functioned as an adjunct to the powerful Associated Farmers, an organization of agriculture groups with a vested interest in preventing the unionization of farm labor.

Research West again upheld farm labor unionism in the Sixties when a group of corporate farmers in the Central Valley commissioned the firm to collect intelligence on the United Farmworkers (UFW). The point of the probe: to ascertain whether the Committee to Abolish the Farm Labor Movement (CALFM) was the body of a series of 17 political burglaries committed in the Bay Area by ex-Santa Clara County Sheriff's Officer Jerome Ducale. Some of the information — including documents on the UFW, the anti-war movement, Ramparts magazine and other leftists groups and individuals — also found its way into the files of the FBI.

In 1967, the company received a pile of documents which later proved to be the body of a series of 17 political burglaries committed in the Bay Area by ex-Santa Clara County Sheriff's Officer Jerome Ducale. Some of the information — including documents on the UFW, the anti-war movement, Ramparts magazine and other leftists groups and individuals — also found its way into the files of the FBI.

The firm, private research groups and state, local and federal law enforcement agencies.

The fact that Research West had abridged its information in its files was not discovered until 1975, when Ducale gave himself up and outlined his "black bag activities" on a brief of recalcitrant investigation.

A heavy right-wing bias has characterized Research West since its earliest days. The company's founder, Harper Knowlton, a former army corps commander and a right-hander for the Port of San Francisco, first made his mark as a subversive cop and investigator by trying to hang a Communist smear on Longshoremen's Union leader Harry Bridges prior to World War Two.

Among Knowlton's earliest Western Research clients were PG&E and Pacific Telephone, both of which used West's red-hunting files to ferret out suspected leftists on their payroll. (The Barb revealed last year that PG&E still uses Research West to conduct background investigations on its employees.)

Not have the passing years and a change in management altered the company's right-wing political bent. At the time, the firm's current head, Knowlton, was in the company in the Sixties, surfaced during the Free Speech Movement at UC Berkeley, railing against the student subversives behind the counter-revolution. Although filed a well-publicized suit against the university aimed at forcing U.C. to throw open its lists of student organizations to self-styled red-hunters.

Little is known about Research West's collection methods. In fact, part of the reason for the current congressional investigation is to learn whether unlawful espionage has been used by the firm to spy on anti-nuclear groups. Political burglar Jerome Ducale claims that the company helped him in his spying on Bay Area radicals, but Altow here stoutly denies that the company has been a party to such activities. The intelligence-collecting methods, Synanon's investigators learned during the Examiner libel suit, that Research West probes information on a regular basis with state, federal and foreign agencies and with army intelligence agents access to its files.

Smith, an investigator for Moss' Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, declined to discuss the specifics of the probe. He said that he did tell the Barb that the committee is "not interested in the methods of the firm's communications" (writings), and "the general issue of energy itself."

Other Bay Area newspapers have reported that the probe focuses on the 1976 California Nuclear Safeguards Initiative, a charge which Smith would neither confirm nor deny.

## Danger From The Right

# SAFE, SECURE, AND MORE



John Fritts

*Despite three years of almost non-stop action, self-proclaimed political burglar David Burdon (pictured) is no closer to forcing an end to his own right-wing spy ring against radicals than he was when he first started.*

Burdon revealed that he had performed right-wing "black bag" jobs against Bay Area peace activists and other leftists in a letter to the Barb in 1972. Since then he has repeated his allegations dozens of times in press interviews, newspaper statements and open meetings (see for example, the October 27, 1975, Barb).

More importantly, he has provided documentation which links the San Francisco Police Department, the FBI and the U.S. Army Intelligence Agency to his activities.

Despite a public pledge to investigate the division after during his 1975 election campaign, S.F. District Attorney Joe Freitas has failed to make any case. Burdon has petitioned S.F. Police Chief Charles Ginn and California Governor Jerry Brown asking for a probe of the case as well, but so far neither has done anything about it.

## Dirty Tricks In Your Own Home

From Bob Haldean's fraudulent "Democratic" postcard mailing during Nixon's 1962 California gubernatorial campaign to Donald Segretti's more grandiose schemes to disrupt the Democratic effort in 1972, California's right-wing has repeatedly turned loose age-old fraud to forward its cause — the political dirty trick. Now the Barb has learned that, in its battle to defeat the Panama Canal treaties, the right-wing may have once again resorted to its old deplorable ways.

Consider the case of San Francisco's Hank Munk. Last October, Munk opened his mail box and discovered a postcard with his name signed to it urging the U.S. Senate to "vote against President Carter's treaty to give away the Panama Canal." The card had been returned to Munk by the post office as undeliverable (it was addressed to U.S. Senator John Tunney who had left the Senate nine months previously).

Despite the possibility of many more dirty tricks, Munk said that official investigation was currently being conducted "as fast as I know."

"There was some talk about the possibility of a campaign to defraud the Senate in the early stages of discussing the Canal treaties, but nothing was ever done about it."

"It's just impossible to prove fraud in this kind of thing — the volume of mail is so great that getting to the bottom on this subject is much too vast to allow a thorough investigation."

—Paul Grabowicz

like Information Digest and Research West, which primarily collect intelligence on left-wing groups and individuals. Anacapa Sciences Incorporated, a Santa Barbara consulting and intelligence services company, has hired several officers and private corporations how to set up their own intelligence units.

Research West, since 1969, "primarily," according to its articles of incorporation, "to engage in the specific field of furnishing intelligence and security services." (And the rendering of planning, development, analysis, and consulting services in the behavioral, physical and engineering sciences to individuals, organizations and government.)

Since that time it has carried out literally dozens of contracts, many — if not most — of them firmly based on police intelligence tasks.

The company has focused much of its activity on training cops — and some security officers for private firms — how to collect and analyze information on alleged "terrorists" and leftists. The company has trained criminal intelligence officers for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the California State Department of Justice, the State Police, the Florida Department of Public Safety, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Texas State Police.

In addition to its training programs, Anacapa Sciences has developed computer intelligence levels pertaining to the California Department of Justice, set up the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office "Organized Crime Unit," which infiltrated the anti-nuclear Abalone Action Committee (see Barb, April 1977), and helped U.C. Santa Barbara's police de-

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Most of the information available on Viguerie's right-wing fund-raising efforts stems from an intensive investigation of New Right activities by Sen. Robert Lewis, senior editor of the Advocate, a national spy newsmagazine.

In a series of muckraking articles the Advocate (beginning last June, Gregory-Lewis has:

- Exposed the early days of Viguerie's fund-raising efforts and a wide spectrum of New Right activities by Sen. Robert Lewis, senior editor of the Advocate, a national spy newsmagazine.
- Traced the connections between Viguerie's fund-raising efforts and the most powerful conservative office-holders in the land including U.S. Representative Jerry McDowell, U.S. Representative Larry McDonald, former California Lt. Governor John G. (Jack) Frawley, and California Governor Ronald Reagan (see Barb, Orange County).
- Uncovered the creation of an inchoate political party, the National Organization of Conservative Patriots (NOSP), masquerading as a policy "lobby" and linked to Viguerie's fund-raising efforts.
- Revealed a campaign by politicians linked to Viguerie to suppress the Lawyers Guild and prevent it from re-

derment work on a murder case.

According to Anacapa's own propaganda, "Most of these courses included a curriculum component outlining the indicators of civil unrest and disaffection, and the development and use of practical exercise providing the attendees with an opportunity to practice analysis and prediction of terrorist activities." In plain English: a unit on how to spot political troublemakers and keep track of their actions, denials that they are selected because of their political attitudes or expertise in intelligence operations. "Our people have diverse backgrounds in one type of science or another," he says, "Psychology, engineering and so forth."

But in fact, it appears the primary activity they specialize in is police science. For example, Walter Harris, one of the company's "primary scientists," formerly worked for the CIA-linked U.S. Army counterterrorism Research Office conducting counterintelligence research. Some of Harris' work was used to develop computer predicting techniques based on the insurgents in South Vietnam, the Philippines and Malaysia.

Harris' work with Southeast Asian counterinsurgents prepared him for his current big assignment: to conduct a study of "stratified data at the state university, state college, community college and private college levels pertaining to their experience in campus disorders." For the California Council on the Arts, the Justice, the forerunner to the Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning.

Other Anacapa Sciences clients include James B. Howlett, a former intelligence officer with the Lakewood Colorado Department of Public Safety who specialized in undercover operations, development and maintenance of technical surveillance equipment and "volunteer development and maintenance of subversive organizations," and Jack Kinney, who put together the Drug Enforcement Administration's "National Intelligence Service," plotted drug control operations for the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, and "exploited and used cost-effective surveys of 'national police force in South America'."

With credentials like these, it's little wonder that Anacapa's intelligence training programs tend to stress such concepts as "countermeasures which have proven effective in various situations," "alternatives to criminal prosecution," "exploiting weaknesses in guerrilla or terrorist organizations" (as opposed to illegal police methods).

The "Training module" developed by Anacapa Science even discusses means of "dealing with groups operating under the cover of a legitimate front or disguising their operations in the context of a legal activity (such as) a licensed parade or assembly."

For an example of how this jingo-baited big game hunting is reflected in the intelligence unit Anacapa Sciences set up for the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's office, look for its activities by launching investigations of a Grateful Dead tour, the Santa Barbara Jazz Festival and a local election called to decide whether or not to part of a Santa Barbara County school district incorporated town.

The purpose of all this activity was summed up in a mallet sent by NOSP last year which claimed the organization was founded to bring "all those good Americans that used to be for Joe McCarthy and Bob Taft, or Barry Goldwater, or a socialist like Walter Reuther, or a Democratic like John F. Kennedy, or a Republican like Dwight D. Eisenhower, to national prominence, but to national dominance."

Democratic himself is blunt about his role as bag man and conservative king-maker and his plans for the future. In a recent interview with Women's Wear Daily he said, "If Ronald Reagan wants the nomination, I will be very sympathetic to a Reagan ticket for help."

## Spies Sugar Daddy

## Federally-Protected Propaganda

While Research West is facing the prospect of a congressional assault, another spy link in the national right-wing intelligence network is also attack — precisely because of its relationship to an individual congressman.

George Diggs (R), a privately-funded right-wing intelligence clearing-house, operates under the protective wing of Representative Larry McDonald (Dem., Georgia), a John Birch Society member best known for his recent tirade in the House against the peace movement and leftist organizations in the pages of other restricted magazines.

The Reeses also used a variety of false identities and phony political front organizations in order to infiltrate left circles in New York and Washington, D.C., during the Sixties.

Unlike other right-wing political organs, Diggs was not openly circulated. Partly for reasons of security and partly to avoid lawsuits for slander, libel, defamation of character and invasion of privacy, the Reeses chose to disseminate their information through the intelligence magazine of police agencies.

Police departments all over the country received Diggs, according to information dated in the 1976 report from the U.S. Assembly's Office of Legislative Oversight. Those who didn't receive the publication directly gained access to the information by means of regional intelligence bureaus, containing copies of it, and informally by word of mouth.

Recently the Reeses have become bolder in their intelligence service. Sheila Rees now works as an aide to Representative McDowell, who has read portions of Diggs directly into the Congressional Record, thus rendering it a privileged communication under congressional rules, hence libel-proof.

Under cover course: Anacapa Sciences has specialized in training them how to spy on the left. (See story upper right.)